

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072308
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARP:JPLYLE/HLK

APPROVED BY: NEA - EGABINGTON, JR.

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-----020402Z 023940 /14

P 020250Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCPACFLT PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 072308

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANAMA 745 ACTION SECSTATE MAR 31, 1977

QTE S E C R E T MANAMA 745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG, BA

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE: MARCH 31 MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER

REF: MANAMA 717

1. MARCH 31 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ONE
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PAGE 02 STATE 072308

MAJOR RESULT: GOB WANTS USG TO PROPOSE METHOD, AND
TEXT, FOR HANDLING LEGAL SITUATION WHICH WILL ARISE
FOLLOWING DE-HOMEPORTING AND TERMINATION OF PRESENT
AGREEMENT. FONMIN, RECALLING OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS
OF THIS POINT (MANAMA 649 AND 676), SAID IT IS
IMPORTANT THAT NEW LEGAL ARRANGEMENT BE AS "INFORMAL"
AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER THAT IT NOT BE SEEN AS SIMPLY ONE

BASING AGREEMENT BEING REPLACED BY ANOTHER. I SAID WE UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT AND WOULD WORK TO MEET IT IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE. I ADDED THAT DE-HOMEPORTING IS A VERY MAJOR CHANGE IN SITUATION, SHOULD BE SEEN AS SUCH, AND THAT EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THIS FACT. HE AGREED AND SAID THAT WHEN TIME COMES TO MAKE PUBLIC NEW ARRANGMENT, WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO STRESS NATURE OF THE CHANGE, AND TO REITERATE LONG AND CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. FONMIN WONDERED IF NEW ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WRAPPED UP IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS; GOB WOULD LIKE TO MOVE FAST NOW THAT BASIC AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED. I SAID I HOPED WE COULD MOVE FAST BUT THAT I DO NOT YET HAVE A GOOD IDEA OF JUST HOW FAST USG WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE.

2. FONMIN EXPANDED A BIT ON HIS VIEW OF HOW WE MIGHT HANDLE NEW ARRANGEMENT. HE SAID THAT DETAILS OF CONTINUING NAVY PRESENCE COULD BE SPELLED OUT IN A DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD BE ATTACHED TO AN EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES IN WHICH CONTINUING APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF OLD AGREEMENT WOULD BE AGREED. I SAID WE DO NOT YET HAVE CLEAR IDEA OF HOW LEGAL ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE REFLECTED ON PAPER BUT THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS IDEA.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER MADE NO REFERENCE TO QUID PRO
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PAGE 03 STATE 072308

QUO AND NONE TO ANY REDUCTION WHATEVER IN NAVY'S SHORE FACILITIES. ONLY DETAIL HE RAISED WAS CONTINUING PRESENCE HERE OF NAVY AIRCRAFT, WHICH HE SAID WAS "FINE" WITH GOB. I SUSPECT THAT IF GOB IS GOING TO PRESS FOR REDUCTIONS IN SHORE FACILITIES, I WILL HEAR ABOUT IT WHEN WE BEGIN TO PUT THE DETAILS ON PAPER. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE IN GOOD NEGOTIATING POSITION, HAVING GOTTEN FURTHER WITH OUR MAJOR, OPENING CONCESSION--DE-HOMEPORTING--THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED A FEW MONTHS AGO.

4. I REALIZE COMPLEXITIES OF CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY, AND OF REACHING AGREEMENT WITHIN USG ON LEGAL FRAMEWORK WHICH MEETS NEEDS OF THIS SITUATION, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S ESTIMATE OF HOW FAST WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THESE STEPS.

5. DEPT PLEASE REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.

CLUVERIUS UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE072308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/ARP:JPLYLE/HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770113-1182
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770496/aaaadfes.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 06868bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 MANAMA 717
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2920076
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST FORCE: MARCH 31 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: MORG, MARR, BA, US
To: DOD JCS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/06868bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009